

From: Hubbard, Joseph
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2014 10:11 AM
Subject: R6 Daily News Digest 03/28/2014
Attachments: Daily News Digest 03282014.pdf

1 – Galveston oil washes up on Matagorda Island (w/videos), Victoria Advocate, 3/27/14

http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2014/mar/27/oil_in_poco_ss_032814_236004/?counties

The sleepy fishing village of Port O'Connor became abuzz Thursday, evolving into a multiagency oil-response headquarters. Throughout the day, response crews dropped more booms into the Gulf of Mexico designed to protect environmentally sensitive Matagorda Island and its endangered species.

2 - Oil spill befouls Matagorda Island, Houston Chron, 3/27/14

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Oil-spill-befouls-Matagorda-Island-5355482.php>

The wind and waves that pushed a sludgy mess out of Galveston Bay have deposited sticky clumps of decayed oil on one of the most pristine places along the Texas coast. The Texas General Land Office on Thursday reported that oil from a punctured barge had fouled at least 12 miles of Matagorda Island, an uninhabited sliver of land favored by migratory birds, deer, alligators and other wildlife.

3 – Louisiana \$50 billion coastal restoration plan would inject billions more into economy every year, study finds, Times Picayune, 3/27/14

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2014/03/louisiana_50_billion_coastal_r.html#incart_river

Under Louisiana's \$50 billion, 50-year coastal restoration plan, the economy would see a boost from construction, cost savings from lower insurance and less hurricane damage, and the creation of a coastal science industry with the potential for being a global leader, according to a report released Thursday.

4 – Houston Ship Channel reopens after oil spill; fine discussed for barge operator, Times Picayune, 3/28/14

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2014/03/houston_ship_channel_reopens_a.html#incart_river

The barge operator that spilled nearly 170,000 gallons of tar-like oil into the Houston Ship Channel, closing one of the nation's busiest seaports for several days, will be fined by Texas regulators regardless of the outcome of state and federal investigations. Investigators are still trying to pinpoint the cause of last weekend's accident involving a barge owned by Houston-based Kirby Inland Marine Corp., but Texas law considers the company carrying the oil a responsible party, said Greg Pollock, deputy director for the Texas General Land Office's oil spill response division.

5 – Karnes man hit with TCEQ fine for dumping, burning tires, Victoria Advocate, 3/27/14

http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2014/mar/26/karnes_tires_ss_032714_235886/?news

A Karnes County man was fined \$36,750 by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for improper disposal of waste, including more than 1,000 used or scrap tires. Nathan Bruton was paid to dispose of the tires but instead dumped them on his own land on County Road 192 in Karnes County, said Thomas Greimel, TCEQ enforcement coordinator.

6 – (Opinion) Copper Rule leaves a bad taste in NM's mouth, ALBQ Journal, 3/27/14

<http://www.abqjournal.com/374697>

Groundwater provides the drinking water for 90 percent of the people in New Mexico. For that reason, whether the recently adopted regulation that addresses groundwater pollution by copper mines (commonly referred to as "the Copper Rule") adequately protects New Mexico's groundwater is a very significant issue. Officials of the New Mexico Environment Department, including its new Secretary, Ryan Flynn, have attempted to defend the Copper Rule by asserting that it is the most protective regulation in the country.

7 – Texas, other states sharing information about earthquakes, Star Telegram, 3/27/14

<http://www.star-telegram.com/2014/03/27/5686021/texas-other-states-sharing-information.html?rh=1#storylink=cpy>

Texas and three other natural gas-producing states are banding together to combat the mounting risks of earthquakes tied to the disposal of wastewater from hydraulic fracturing for natural gas. A representative from the Texas Railroad Commission and regulators from Kansas, Oklahoma and Ohio met for the first time this month in Oklahoma City to exchange information on the man-made earthquakes and help states toughen their standards.

8 - Jindal unveils legislation to solve oil and gas legacy lawsuits, Baton Rouge Advocate, 3/27/14

<http://theadvocate.com/news/8746658-123/jindal-unveils-fix-for-legacy>

Gov. Bobby Jindal unveiled legislation Thursday that he said will finally solve a simmering problem in Louisiana. The proposal, which will be filed for consideration in this legislative session, tackles what are known as legacy lawsuits. The lawsuits involve damage often created years ago by oil and gas drilling. Industry claims the expensive litigation drives it out of Louisiana.

9 - Texas Ruling Shows Limits For Advocates' Air Enforcement In Lieu Of EPA, Inside EPA, 3/26/14

<http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-03/28/2014/texas-ruling-shows-limits-for-advocates-air-enforcement-in-lieu-of-epa/menu-id-67.html>

A federal district court's rejection of environmentalists' suit against a Texas utility over alleged Clean Air Act violations highlights the hurdles advocates face in their bid to fill what they claim is a gap in air law enforcement by EPA and state officials, sources say, as it shows the high legal burden of proof advocates must satisfy.

10 - Proposed water rule 'ain't going to happen,' House Approps chairman tells McCarthy, Greenwire, 3/27/14

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2014/03/27/stories/1059996859>

House Republican appropriators suggested today they would try to kill a U.S. EPA proposal for expanding Clean Water Act protections for streams and wetlands in their handling of the agency's fiscal 2015 budget request.

11 – (Opinion) To desal or not to desal is not really the question., San Antonio Express News, 3/28/14

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/commentary/article/To-desal-or-not-to-desal-is-not-really-the-5354963.php>

Ahead of a ruling next week on whether or not to move forward with international regulations on emissions from large ships, a new study finds that the standards are technically feasible and should not be delayed.

12 - Tighten rules on drilling waste disposal to prevent quakes, DeFazio says, Greenwire, 3/26/14

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2014/03/26/stories/1059996767>

Federal law governing the disposal of oil and gas waste should be strengthened to address its potential to trigger earthquakes, a top House Democrat said. "We need to decide if re-injection of wastewater is wise in some places," said Rep. Peter DeFazio of Oregon, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, at an earthquake hearing yesterday. "This is all regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, which is focused on protecting groundwater. It turns out there are other problems."

13 - Air Pollution and Hydraulic Fracturing: Better Monitoring, Planning and Tracking of Health Effects Needed in Texas, UT News, 3/27/14

<http://www.utexas.edu/news/2014/03/27/hydraulic-fracturing-texas/>

A review by a University of Texas at Austin researcher highlights the rapid proliferation of gas industry operations in urban areas and questions whether state and federal air pollution regulatory programs are well designed to ensure health and safety. The review recommends increased government monitoring, health impact studies and regulation of air pollution. The findings by Rachael Rawlins, faculty member in the UT Community and Regional Planning Program in the School of Architecture, were recently published in the Virginia Environmental Law Journal. They were based on a comprehensive review and analysis of air quality monitoring, regulation and health effect studies of hydraulic fracturing on the Barnett Shale in Texas.

14 - Texas Solar Power May Have its Day in the Sun, Texas Observer, 3/27/14

<http://www.texasobserver.org/texas-solar-power-day-sun/>

One of the most inexorable and (buzzword coming...) disruptive trends in the energy world has, for some time, been the precipitous decline in the cost of solar. Like other renewable energy technologies, solar power has obvious environmental and climate benefits but hasn't necessarily been competitive, in strict market terms, with fossil fuels. That's changing very rapidly—even in Texas.

15 - As AG Weighs Plastic Bag Laws, Dallas Passes Its Own, Texas Tribune, 3/26/14

<http://www.texastribune.org/2014/03/26/others-submit-briefs-dallas-passes-bag-ordinance/>

Amid debate over whether plastic bag bans violate the state's health and safety laws, Dallas on Wednesday became the largest city in Texas to pass an ordinance restricting use of the bags. The Dallas ordinance, which the City Council approved by a vote of 8-6, doesn't ban plastic bags outright. Rather, it limits their use by imposing a 5-cent-per-bag charge on retailers, which will receive 10 percent of the revenue.

Regards,

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